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BOOKS OF CURRENT AND LASTING VALUE

Myths and Legends of Egypt and the Rhine—Charms and Talismans-The War in the Far East: Our In-

terests-Stephen Graham's Russia Again.

With states includes a let and sixteen the world to India and China and is in color. See, pp. 111, 289, The F. et and to the Maori's punamu stone.

A popularizer, Mr. Spence, the author has given us, besides this volume, studies of the myths of Mexico, Japan, the Celts and the Indians, but there he breaks to a certain extent new ground. The mythology of ancient Egypt, he points out, was for a long time the exclusive domain of Egyptologists, who but rarely were familiar with the methods of mythological research or of the ods of mythological research or of the study of comparative re ignon. Hence a tendency to set the beliefs of Egypt aside as outside the world-wide currents of religious development. And it is the leading purpose of this volume to link Egypt, on the one hand, to the past, beginning with animism, and, on the other, to trace its religious beliefs and ceremonies back from the country which they so deeply influenced Greece whi rever the gyptian records leave us with but scant information, as in the case of the mysteries. A serious work this, but at the same time readable, popular in tone, well adapted to the needs of the interested layman. There is considerable controadapted to the needs of the interested layman. There is considerable controversial matter here, notably on the subject of totemism, but that may be left to the experts. Suffice it to say that the author links the myths of Egypt to its history and the daily life of its people—that he gives his subject a living quality. The numerous illustrations form, very supitable archaelogical callery.

form a veritable archaeological gallery The author's collection of the myths of the Rhine makes a wider appeal. Here there are no puzzles to be solved, no matters of controversy. Beginning with a sound historical introduction, the book takes the reader up the stream, including in the trip event. the book takes the reader up the stream, including in the trip even its uneventful course through Holland to the sea. The Rhine legends we know are all here; but there is a wealth of less familiar tales and traditions which more than justifies the publication of the book. The author gives us, moreover, more than a mere outline of the stories, which is too often all that their transwhich is too often all that their trans-lators have given us. He preserves their spirit, and and gay, but nearly always mystic, whether it be in his version of the Nibelungen song or of the later legend connected with the of the later legend connected with the Lorelei. And throughout he insists upon the faithful response of these tra-ditions to the prevalent moods of nat-ur in the localities that gave them birth. The colored plates, many of birth. The colored plates, many of them from paintings made familiar to us in reproduction, are splendidly print-ed, and the collotypes, mostly of places, always have an illustrative connection with the text. The book was written before the war. The Rhine trip is not likely to form part of the itinerary of American tourists next summer any more than it did during the season just

The scope of this new volume by r. Kunz is far wider than was that of its predecessor from his pen, "The Curious Lore of Precious Stones." He is here concerned not merely with jewels but with the simplest pebble Fastern Affairs. whose color, transparency or shape appeals to that strange interest in us—a matter of racial heredity, no doubt which is known as litho- or pebblemania, the Greek word being the better which is known as litho or pebblemania, the Greek word being the better because the more inclusive one. For in its childhood the human race, if it cherished curious pebbles as talismans, worshipped strangely shaped rocks and even mountains as the abode or even the outward form of the spirits of its nascent mythologies. Nor were stones the only substance to which it ascribed magic, mystic properties. As a matter of fact, the book embraces the fishbone charms of prehistory as well as the chipped and polished ornaments and talismans of the two stone ages, gold and wooden and cloth amulets, and it ends with the charms which men and women wear to-day, less with faith in their efficacy than with appreciation of the lore of charms, of meteorites and supposedly medicinal stones, foremost among them, perhaps, jade, of fabulous substances such as snake-stones and the jewel in the head of the toal; of amulets, the religious uses of the staff of amulets and the properties and the properties. The staff of amulets and the properties and the pro cherished curious pebbles as talismans, worshipped strangely shaped rocks and even mountains as the abode or even the outward form of the spirits of its nascent mythologies. Nor were stones the only substance to which it ascribed magic, mystic properties. As a matter of fact, the book embraces the fishbone charms of prehistory as well as the chipped and polished ornaments and talismans of the two stone ages, gold and wooden and cloth amulets, and it ends with the charms which men and women wear to-day, less with faith in their efficacy than with appreciation of the picturesqueness of their age-old traditions.

The book is an encyclopædic coller-

stones and the jewel in the head of the toad; of amulets, the religious uses of various stones, among these the adornment of shrines, which leads, of course, to some tales of the looting of churches in war-time. And if, in the matter of time, the volume reaches from prehistory to the ancient Egyptians and

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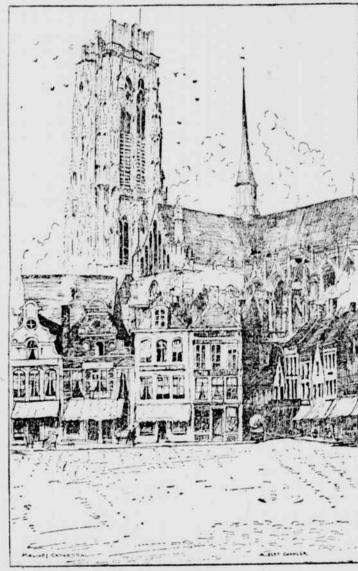
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book is of most interest. Mr. Jones is decidedly anti-Japanese, it is true, and allowance must be made for his bias, but even so he presents a mass of curious facts. That Great Britain was not in the least anxious fo Japan to take advantage of the war, for instance. The proof? Sir Edward Grey has published all the correspondence concerning the outbreak of the war in Europe, but the Anglo-Japanese dispatches he has withheld. Indeed, our author holds that before long Great Britain will find her interests in China es seriously menaced as will the United States.

States.
On the subject of the Asiatic immigration question, so far as it concerns this country and Japan, Mr. Jones is most informing. It is almost exclusively a question of pride not of tractice, he states—insistence upon counlity with the great powers of the world. Actually Japanese statesmanship desires emigration to Corea, Manship desires emigration to Corea, Manshuria and Formosa, and the penetraing a Revised and Enlarged Edition of The which is jade, has been very popular in the huria and Formesa, and the penetrate of Easier. Hustrased the popularizer, Mr. Spence, the author day when Queen Alexandra made it the "Myths and Legends of Ancient fashion. Its reputation as a potent the Japanese and the Germans; this pit," I also a serious authority. He can be a potent to the serious authority the talisman has been established by the concern with the loss of settlers under the serious of the settlers and the serious distribution of the serious authority and the property of the serious authority and the property of the serious authority and the penetration of the serious and the penetration and Formesa, and the penetration of the serious and the penetration and the serious and the penetration of the serious and the penetration and the serious and the penetration of the serious and the penetration and the serious and the penetration are serious as a potential serious and the penetration and the penetration and the penetration and the serious and the serious and the serious and the serious and the penetration and the serious and the serio



MALINES CATHEDRAL.

KIAO-CHOW

Eastern Affairs.

the only American, with the exception of our military attaché, to accompany the Japanese expeditionary force and to witness the siege. He describes this minor clash of arms from both sides; he evidently obtained ample information of the progress of affairs in the city from the moment of the enemy's approach. He describes well, lucidly, his narrative is interesting throughout, but it will suffice here to summarize his observations of the Japanese army his observations of the Japanese army in the field. Its neglect of sanitation, in the field. Its neglect of sanitation, both in camp and in the barracks of the captured city, he says, was indescribable, unprintable. Its punctilious courtesy, the humanitarian spirit displayed, "have won the heart of every German." But there was considerable unauthorized looting, and the Japanese soldiers' treatment of the Chinese coolies was ignoble. It is, by the way, this arrogant assumption of superiority that is becoming an increasingly serious obstacle to the realization of Japan's aspiration to the hegemony of Asia. For one thing, it has alienated the Javanese rulers and princes of the Dutch East Indies, where Japanese intrigues have seceived a serious check.

ment of the modern city. His revolt against the new Russia which is grow-ing out of the old, the Russia of railroads and commerce and industry, of sanitation and conscious effort, was first expressed in "Changing Russia," a book full of denunciation of a middle THE FALL OF TSINGTAU. With a Study of class which, no doubt, has many of the Apall's Amethicon in China By Jefferson follows. History Limo pp. 1718. The Hongston Millio Company.

This contribution to the literature of praising the bustle of the Italian cities.

tatherland he condemns. His enthusiance sail that the best minds in Russia seek to ameliorate and eliminate. He would shield the country and its people against the contamination of the West. They are to be kept in illiteracy, squalor, poverty for the preservation of their collective mystic soul. It is an untenable attitude which Russian

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thinkers will be the last to indorse. And perhaps the Slav soul stands in ro auch danger of totally losing its vision under the influence of modern

civilization as Mr. Graham believes.

This book is chiefly a comparison between Eastern and Western Christianity, whence its title. The way of Martha is that of the West—the way of work. avation though serves and work. The way of Mary is that of the East-the way of salvation through faith alone. Throughout Mr. Granam finds the fullest expression of the Slav temperament in this way of Mary. He finds it in even the most inhibitive phases of the strength o West its utter lack of the sense of responsibility: The Russians are unashamed.

The Russians are unashamed. Men and women confess voluntarily to having committed crimes or bahave I abominably. The man who lives an immoral life does not do so secretly to his wife. No one is ashamed to borrow or to be tremendously in debt; no one horror-struck at the idea of visiting the pawnshop. All which exemplifies the love toward individuals and individual destiny. This is why Russia is so free. In Iussia love is toward the individual much more than toward the state. We often condemn individual behavior in the name of the state. We often condemn individual behavior in the name of the state. We believe in order. Our freedom is freedom within bounds. We allow our-elves to be disciplined along definite lines. In Russia it is different. within bounds. We allow our eves to be disciplined along definite lines. In Kussia it is different. There freedom often amounts to chaos. Even Russian order, that which comes from Petrograd, is something borrowed from Germany to keep the state together. Russians have no instinct for order Russian likes the individual to do as the places. Hence a divine disor-

Russia likes the individual to do as he pleases. Hence a divine disorder, a glorious promiscuity.
All of which sounds as bewildering as Russia looks to us. Withal, there is much of beauty in the book; many of its chapters are written with a sort of lyrical exaltation. At the same time it gives us another curious glimpse of the most interesting, the most incalculable country of the future.

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